She, whom the spital-house, and ulcerous sores Would cast the gorge at[9], this embalms and spices

word is not used now, but *tapping,* and thereof comes the name *wapping-moi'ts* for whores." Again, in one of the Paston Letters, vol. iv. p. 417 : " Deal courteously with the Queen, &c. and with Mrs. Anne Hawte for *wappys,"* &c.

Mr. Anmer observes, that " the editor of these same Letters, to wit, Sir John Fenn, (as perhaps becometh a grave man and a magistrate,) professeth not to understand this passage."

It must not, however, be concealed, that Chaucer, in The Complaint of Annelida, line 217, uses the word in the sense in which Dr. Warburton explains it:

" My sewertye in *waped* countenance.'*

Wappened, according to the quotations I have already given, would mean,—" The widow whose curiosity and passions had been already gratified." So, in Hamlet:

[ce] The instances that second marriage move, " Are base respects of *thrift,* but none of *love.''* And if the word *defunct,* in Othello, be explained according toils primitive meaning, the same sentiment may be discovered there. There may, however, be some corruption in the text. After all, I had rather read—weeping widow. So, in the ancient bl. 1. ballad entitled, The Little Barley Come : " 'Twill make a *seeping widow* laugh, " And soon incline to pleasure." STEEVENS. The instances produced by Mr. Steevens fully support the text in my apprehension, nor do I suspect any corruption. *Untoap-pefd* is used by Fletcher in The Two Noble Kinsmen, *for fresh?* the opposite of *stale* .- and perhaps we should read there *un-wappen'd.*

Mr. Steevens's interpretation however, is, I think, not quite-exact, because it appears to me likely to mislead the reader with respect to the general impart of the passage. Shakspeare means* not to account for the wappen'd widow's *seeking* a husband., (though " her *curiosity* has been *gratified,")* but for her *finding* one. It is her gold, says he, that induces some one (more attentive to *thrift* than *love)* to *accept* in marriage the hand of the *experienced* and *o'er-worn* widow.—Wed is here used for *wedded',.* So, in The Comedy of Errors, Act I. Sc. I.: " In Syracusa was I born, and *wed* [tc] Unto a woman, happy but for me." Again, in The Taming of the Shrew, vol. v. p. 426 :

" To wish me *wed* to one half lunatick." Again, in The Maid's Tragedy:

«•----------He that understands

[u] Whom you have *wed* needs not to wish you joy."